

The UB

of the
GOLDEN LION

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR

*The Veterans of the
106th INFANTRY
DIVISION*

Vol. 76 – No. 1

December 2019 – March 2020

75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge

Two Members Share Their Once-in-a-Life-Time Experiences



Left to right: Luke Iannuzzi, Mike Sheaner and Herb Sheaner (422/G), David Smith, Wayne Dunn, Al Iannuzzi Jr. and Al Iannuzzi III, at the dedication of the new POW monument at Schönberg.

For the stories and photos, please see page 21

The CUB

A tri-annual publication of the 106th Infantry Division Association, Inc.

Total Membership as of January 31, 2020 – 981

Membership includes *CUB* magazine subscription

Annual Dues are no longer mandatory: Donations Accepted

Payable to “*106th Infantry Division Association*” and mailed to
the Treasurer — *See address below*

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President's View . . .

Despite the volumes of books, reports and stories that have appeared during and after the war, there still exists pockets of detention that have escaped our knowledge, much less publicity. One location near Dresden was featured in *Slaughterhouse Five* by Kurt Vonnegut. There are many others that have remained unknown or records of them have disappeared.

One such location that doesn't appear anywhere, in fact in some ways it has disappeared, was in Leipzig. The only known reference to Leipzig as a POW stalag is in Chapter 7 of the book, *My Nine Lives* written by me. I have attempted to locate a few names of fellow prisoners I remembered but without success. A bombing on Leipzig by our B-17s on February 22, 1945, is nowhere to be found in any Air Force or War Department records. I read about an Air Force Captain who claimed he led the mission over Leipzig on February 22, 1945. To my knowledge, I believe, I am the only survivor of that prison camp in Leipzig, although I have been unable to research German records for reference to it.



Bob Pope (590/FABN)

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In the last issue of *The CUB*, John Schaffner did an awesome job of reviewing our history from our early years to the present. I would just like to add a personal touch through my mother's eyes and heart. I went overseas on November 10th and was captured on December 21st. My mother's first government notice was a telegram January 21st, saying I was MIA (Missing in Action). Her next notice was a letter from the War Department saying I was a POW (Prisoner of War) in Germany. Three days later, April 24th, I was back in American hands and writing to her. But there was a three-month empty time of her

President's View . . .

not knowing if I was alive or dead. Post-war, my first documented report was titled "Forty-Two Days from Boston Harbor to POW."

Food for Thought: All WWII veterans must be in their mid-90s. When the *last* 106th veteran dies, what will be the future of the Association?

P.S.: I have received no letters or phone calls in response to my challenge to all Veterans in the previous *CUB*, so the challenge remains: "Now this part is directed to the 483 veterans on our mailing list. As a popular song says, 'We need to get to know you.' Most of

you haven't attended a reunion in a long time for physical or financial reasons. However, we can and should still communicate. If you can still write, drop me a line, if you can't, give me a call. My home phone number is 716-580-3118 and my cell is 716-867-7491. I'll answer and if I can't, leave a message on my voicemail including your phone number and I will make sure to call you back. Come on Vets, get in the flow and help us *To get to know you.*"

Bob Pope
President



Warm Memories of Cold Spring

by Beatrice Fulton Keeber

A Golden Lion's war experiences forged a boy into a man. But what really defined him as the person he became was his "happily ever after" with his family and his 60-year love story. *Warm Memories of Cold Spring* is *not* a war story! It's a smile-producing tale of "*what came next*" that reminds other vets of their own "afters," their children and grandchildren of Dad's and Mom's or Grandpa's and Grandma's lives.

Pfc. Willard H. Keeber, with Co. G, 424th Infantry Regiment, 106th Infantry Division, was placed on-line December 11, 1944 near St. Vith, Belgium, two months past his 19th birthday, five days prior to the German Tank Assault that smashed directly through his position, launching the Battle of the Bulge.

This is the story of a *veteran's* legacy that left his world better than he found it.

Online at **amazon.com** (simply type the title in the search bar)

Print copy – \$9.99; Kindle – \$4.99

Chaplain's Message . . .

A Tribute to the Men of the 106th Infantry Division And all who helped win the Battle of the Bulge 75 Years Ago

The wicked flee though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion. Proverbs 28:1

At noon on March 15, 1943, a gleaming limousine pulled up in front of Fort Jackson's Theater 2, carrying the governor of South Carolina, Olin Johnston, who took his place on a stage next to Major General William Simpson, commanding general of the XII Corps.

Onstage sat Brigadier General Alan Walter Jones along with the senior staff of a new division that was about to be created. In the body of the theater were cadres — including 1,800 men drawn from the 80th Infantry Division — who had arrived over the past few days. The average age was twenty-one, including all officers, and the experienced group of men from the 80th.

The 106th Infantry Division, which had been constituted on paper in May 1942, was then formally activated, with 16,000 personnel from nearly every state in the union. Allied High Command had recognized the need for more land forces in preparation for the eventual invasion of Europe. The 106th, an exceptional group of soldiers who had scored high on intelligence tests, would be the last infantry division created during the Second World War. The division adopted the motto "To make history is our aim."

Three days later, Brigadier General Alan Walter Jones was promoted to major general and appointed commander



Pastor Chris Edmonds

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of the 106th Infantry, known as the Golden Lions. The divisional insignia was a yellow lion's face on a bright blue background encircled by white and red borders. The blue represented the infantry; the red, the supporting artillery; the lion's face was symbolic of strength and courage.

On March 29, 1943, as the sun began splashing fiery hues over Columbia, a bugle blared and the men of the 106th stormed from their quarters. Inspections, the presentation of colors, and breakfast were over by 0700 hours; then training of the 16,000 fresh warriors began with rigor. As training began in earnest, General Jones would say, "Everything seemed to be going our way and the world looked bright and cheery." The men of the 106th were thrilled to be in a new division and ready to take the fight to Hitler.

And fight they did.

On December 2, 1944, the 106th Division made landfall in France, disembarking at Le Havre on the Normandy coast. Each man climbed down rope netting onto landing barges, which pitched and heaved in the cold North Atlantic surf. Each man staggered under the weight of his equipment and weapons consisting of full field packs, helmet, rifle, loaded cartridge belt and additional bandoliers of ammunition. Each man slogged through freezing rain and mud to get to their final positions. It was a harsh introduction to life in the field; the men of the 422nd, 423rd, and 424th regiments were freezing and wearing drenched uniforms and boots by the time they arrived at Saint Vith on December 10 along a long thin front on the Schnee Eifel in the Ardennes Forest.

The Ardennes Forest was known by the Allied forces as a “quiet sector.” It was a 75-mile stretch of the front held by the inexperienced 106th Division and the battle-worn 28th Division stationed there for seasoning and rest. However, at 0530 hours on December 16, the frozen earth erupted: hell appeared like a ghost in the forest. In an instant, pine trees exploded into deadly wooden spikes. The frigid air turned fiery red. Blood and bone mingled with chunks of thawing debris. Soldiers clung to the shaking icy ground, desperately trying to crawl into their helmets. Terrain and weather were no longer their greatest enemies. Their enemies were the relentless concussions and deadly shrapnel from the murderous 88s. The German artillery rained down with pinpoint accuracy from what

seemed like every direction. No one was safe. There was nowhere to run or hide — just across the valley were thousands of enemy troops, with thundering panzers and heavy artillery.

Fear was also their enemy. Fear that they would be blown to pieces in an instant. Fear that they might not make it home, might never see their families again. Fear for the lives of their buddies. This was a terror they never could have imagined. Every soldier knew panic was lethal to an infantryman, but it gripped them with a sickening embrace. Their bodies shivered as they shook off thoughts of their own death.

The treetop calibration tactic perfected in the Hurtgen Forest was being put to devastating effect now in the Ardennes. Every tree seemed to have been simultaneously blasted from its roots. Even with all the live-fire training at Fort Jackson and Camp Atterbury, there was no way they could have prepared for the horrific reality of battle — especially this battle.

The men fought an overwhelming urge to run. All around, wounded men were screaming. It was suddenly hellfire in their “quiet” sector of the Ardennes and though fiery shrapnel continued to rain down, our brave “Golden Lions” overcame the urge to panic and instead chose to fight.

The Battle of the Bulge had begun.

Writing about the battle, Ernest Hemingway said, “I can remember thinking that it would be simpler, and more effective, to shoot [the

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Chaplain's Message . . .

replacements] in the area where they detrucked, than to have to try to bring them back from where they would be killed and bury them.”

The Germans' initial attack involved 410,000 men and 1,400 tanks along with tank destroyers, assault guns, 2,600 artillery pieces, 1,600 anti-tank guns, 1,000 combat aircraft, as well as large numbers of other armored fighting vehicles.

The Germans never made it to Antwerp. Lions stood in their way.

Armed with little more than rifles and bullets, the “Golden Lions” of the 106th fought against overwhelming odds to slow the onslaught of the Nazis. Total battle casualties for the Division was 8,627 which included 1,278 wounded, 235 missing, 6,697 prisoners of war, and 417 killed in action. At great cost, and with uncommon valor, soldiers

of the 106th helped secure victory and bring an end to World War II.

An admiring British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill stated, “This is undoubtedly the greatest American battle of the war and will, I believe, be regarded as an ever-famous American victory.” In fact, the U.S. Army Center of Military History states, “In terms of participation and losses, the Battle of the Bulge is arguably the greatest battle in American military history.”

I would add: Fought by some of the greatest men who donned a uniform — men who helped secure our freedom over tyranny — men who were bold as a lion.

We will long remember their sacrifices. We must honor them well. Like them, let us love our great Nation and fight for what's right. May we live as “bold as a lion.”

Visit the 106th Association's Website!

By Wayne Dunn

To complement the wonderful websites that are already out on the Internet, including websites from our own members, Jim West (*IndianaMilitary.org*) and Carl Wouters (*106thinfantry.webs.com*), the Association has launched its own website at ***106thInfDivAssn.org***.

This is where you will find information on upcoming events, copies of the membership application for your family to join, the complete latest issue, plus additional photos and articles from *The CUB*.

Also look for our Facebook page at ***Facebook.com/106thInfDivAssn***.

This is where you can find up-to-the-minute information and where you can connect with friends and make plans for the next reunion.

If you have any additional reunion photos or information that you would like to see on the website or Facebook page, please contact the Webmaster, Wayne Dunn at *Host106th@106thInfDivAssn.org* or 410-409-1141.

The Adjutant's Message . . .

I'm sitting here pondering the Adjutant's message to share, one day after Kobe Bryant, his daughter, and seven others perished in a helicopter accident. That morning was like most any other — those with a plan for the day were rushing around putting things in motion to achieve their goals. Then tragedy happens and it affects almost everyone. Also, in preparing for this message, I reread the after-action report of sorts by Col. Charles C. Cavender, commander of the 423rd Regiment, as he retells the story of the regiment and all its moving parts as it leaves their base at Cotwolds, England, and moves toward the War. Their next stop was near Le Havre, France, then on to the front line near St. Vith, Belgium. They are doing what soldiers do, reconnoitering their area of responsibility, assigning sectors, lanes of fire, organizing patrols all along their 7.5 miles of the frontline assigned to them. They got there by December 11th. They settled in, ever wary, but hopeful that the quiet that was present continued. As you know, it did not continue. My dad, Robert M. Wood, 423rd I, told me they could hear some movement to their front but could not yet see it. It was reported to higher Headquarters. Then on December 16th, mortars and artillery began to fall. Col. Cavender described how the regiment fought and sacrificed with "All They Had".... until all they had was knocked out. He described how these soldiers fought and delayed the Germans four days beyond their goals when it became apparent that to continue was going to gain nothing but greater loss of life.



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The 15th of December was a normal hectic day in the middle of the war, then tragedy struck and it affected people all over the world. It wasn't nine souls in a chopper, it was thousands of souls either killed or captured. It is 76 years later, and it still affects us all. It wasn't just the 423rd Regiment, it was the 422nd, 424th, and all the attached units as well as the other Divisions near them. It was a terrible four days and beyond. So we pray for Kobe Bryant and his family and all the families from the crash. We pray for all the soldiers killed, injured, captured; survivors of prison camp; and those that got away to fight again to close the Bulge. And finally, we pray for those who passed away after the war who experienced that tragedy and for their families still affected even today.

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The Adjutant's Message . . .

Now, 76 years later, there are fewer and fewer Veterans from that battle, but more and more family members present that are still affected and curious, and seeking answers and understanding. That is why we have reunions. These once 17- to 25-year-old soldiers are starting to falter and pass. Therefore, it is up to the 2nd, 3rd and 4th generations to help make our reunions a meaningful, fulfilling experience, to honor our soldiers from 76 years ago. So, plan now to attend our reunion September 9–13, 2020, at the Hilton Kansas City Airport. If you have a living Veteran in your family, and he can make the trip, please give him a chance to experience his comrades again.

Most of the details for this year's reunion are in progress. The registration and program forms are included in this *CUB*. Once again, we will be working with the 104th this year. We will have our own banquet but will share the hospitality room and the tours, and we are invited to the Beer Bash which will include a raffle and a silent auction. Last year, our Association raised over \$300 from that one night of fun. Plan to come. Plan to bring some of your art to sell. Mark your calendar.

As you can see, "Things can change in a flash." See you there!

Randall M. Wood
Adjutant 106th Infantry
Division Association
Robert Wood 423-I

Jim West and the *IndianaMilitary.org* Website

Additional 106th Infantry Division information can be found on Jim West's (OGL 2000) website at ***IndianaMilitary.org***. It includes the following:

- Reconstructed Roster of the 106th at ***<http://tinyurl.com/106th-Roster>*** with 18,902 entries to date, including more than 300 individual photos which include:
 - 6,760 POWs
 - 962 as KIA
- Every issue of *The CUB* from 1946 to present (searchable)
- Every issue of the *Camp Atterbury Camp Crier* with articles on the 106th
- Local Columbus, Indiana, newspaper articles featuring the 106th
- With Wayne Dunn's help, over 451 diaries of 106th men and a few from other units
- Articles include: Battle of the Bulge, Important dates, Unit publications, Photo Albums, After-Action Reports, General and Special Orders and much more
- Information on the 106th guarded PWTE (Prisoner of War Temporary Enclosures)
- The official history site for Camp Atterbury, Indiana.

A Note from the Editor

When we first started putting together this edition of *The CUB*, our historian, John Schaffner, was busy with a grueling rehabilitation schedule after a fall. It is with deep sadness that I convey to you that John passed away on Tuesday, March 3. John was truly a “champion of the 106th,” as my husband called him. John was full of passion for the Association, its Veterans and members. I had the distinct pleasure of meeting John several years ago through my husband, Wayne Dunn. We got a tour of his impressive collection of WWII memorabilia and books, along with his museum-like displays of miniature plane models he had built himself. And then, after his dear wife, Lillian, passed away last April, I was able to spend a little more personal time with him over dinner one night — talking into the night, enjoying his company and insights. When I saw him again, it was during a visit to Hospice on the day he passed away. While I was overtaken by sadness, I could tell by the family members who were there, and from knowing his son, Bob, and daughter-in-law, Barb, that he had lived a good life indeed, and his legacy would carry on. I will always remember him as quick-witted, soft-spoken, kind, and always keen to share his stories. He will be missed.

John wrote something while he was in rehab that I would still like to share



John R. Schaffner 589/A,
Historian, Past President 2002-2003

because it shows that he was thinking about the Association and looking forward to writing again for the next publication of *The CUB*.

A Message from John dated 2/3/2020

“Were it not for immobility to circulate, I would be bothering you all with copy for our *CUB* Magazine. As many may know by now, I have suffered a paralysis in my legs, which was revealed by an MRI examination. I will be back as soon as it becomes possible to move around and write again. In the meantime, you may believe anything Lisa says about me.
Carry on, John”

Our prayers and condolences go out to John's family. Rest in Peace, John.

Treasurer's and Membership Chair's Report . . .

Make checks payable to “***106th Infantry Division Association***” and mail them to the Treasurer:



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Please report all changes of address and deaths to the Association Membership Chair:



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973-663-2410

Treasurer's Report:

November 1, 2019 – January 31, 2020

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning Balance: | \$16,486.74 |
| Money In: | \$4,113.22 |
| Money Out: | \$2,426.83 |
| Difference: | \$1,686.39 |
| Ending Balance: | \$18,173.13 |

Association Membership

As of January 31, 2020

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Total Membership | 981 |
| Membership Veterans | 445 |
| Associate Membership | 536 |

Show support for our mission by giving generously.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Send your contribution, check made payable to *106th Infantry Div. Association*, to:

Mike Sheaner, Treasurer
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Treasurer's and Membership Chair's Report . . .

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In memory of Edward L Bohde, 422/L

Given by Cheryl, Carolyn and Ray Slack

Given by Donald and Cynthia King

Given by Anna D. Fazi

Given by Don E. Bohde and family of Edward

In memory of M/Sgt John L. Mikalauski, 424/H, who served in WWII Battle of the Bulge and Korean War. He passed away December 30, 2010.

Given by Dolores Mikalauski

In memory of my husband, David S. Wyman, M.D., who was a companion of John Robb at Stalag 9B in Bad Orb, Germany. John will tell you how he, David and one other prisoner kept themselves together and alive through those terrible winter months. David died in 1989. He practiced internal medicine for 30 years and was much loved by his patients.

Given by Valerie P. Wyman

Returned Issues of the Latest *CUB* of the *Golden Lion*

We have gotten many returned *CUB* issues in the past due to incorrect addresses or members who have passed away and therefore no longer reside at the address we have on file. If you happen to know of anyone who is not getting *The CUB* who should be, it may be because we have an incorrect address. Or if you know of a member who has passed away and whose family no longer wishes to receive *The CUB*, we want to know.

Please notify Membership Chair ***Jacquelyn Coy*** ***directly at the address listed on the inside cover of this issue*** if you know of anyone who falls into these categories so that our records may be updated with accurate information.

Make Your Plans NOW!!

for the 106th Infantry Division Association's 74th Annual Reunion at the

Hilton Airport Hotel in Kansas City, MO

September 9–13, 2020

Registration forms and paperwork can be found in the center of this *CUB*.

The CUB Delivery Options

Approximately 90% of Association expenses are directly related to printing and shipping *The CUB* each year. Your choice to receive *The CUB* by email will help defer expenses and enable us to continue to deliver *The CUB* until "The Last Man Standing." Please indicate mailing preference by responding to the following:

1. Preferred delivery method for general correspondence:
MAIL _____ or Email _____
2. Preferred delivery method for *The CUB*:
MAIL _____ or Email _____
3. Email address: _____

You can let us know your preference by emailing:

membership@106thinfdivassn.org

Memorial, Honorary and Life+Contributions are Essential for Keeping this Organization Going

A suggested annual donation of \$25 to help underwrite the cost to publish and mail *The CUB* through the "Last Man Standing" and beyond is appreciated. The Association exists on donations from its members and interested individuals. Your gifts are essential to maintaining *The CUB* magazine in its current format with high-quality content and tri-annual delivery. The cost of printing and mailing each edition of *The CUB* exceeds our current level of giving. Therefore, we encourage all readers to make an annual contribution, as you are able, to help defray the cost of printing and mailing.

Those Members who contribute will have their names (only, no amounts will be shown) published in the next *CUB*. You can donate as much or as little as you can and as often as you like. By donating, you are helping perpetuate the 106th Infantry Division Association.

Planned Giving

Whether you would like to put your donation to work today or benefit the 106th Infantry Division Association beyond your lifetime, you can find a charitable plan that works for you. Popular means of life planning gifts include Wills and Living Trusts and Beneficiary Designations. Consult your professional advisor on how to extend support for the 106th Infantry Division Association to make a lasting impact.

Treasurer's and Membership Chair's Report . . .

106th Challenge Coin and Wooden Ornaments — *Have You Gotten Yours Yet?*

**\$10 each,
plus \$1 postage
per coin**



Front



Back



**\$10 each
plus \$2.00 shipping
per ornament**
(For an order of 10 or more,
will be quoted a better shipping cost)

Make all checks payable to *106th Infantry Division Association*
All proceeds benefit the association.

Order from:

Adjutant Randall Wood: woodchuck01@sbcglobal.net, 765-346-0690 or write to:
810 Cramertown Loop, Martinsville, IN 46151.

Please call or email with questions.

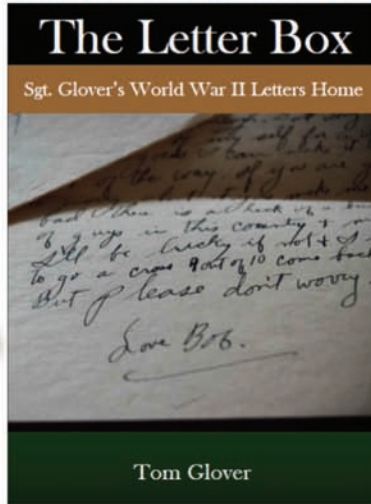
PLEASE NOTE: Membership Chair Jacquelyn Coy is working to update the Association's roster with veterans and their units. If you use email, please email her directly at membership@106thinfdivassn.org. In your message, please let Jacquelyn know your name and 106th Infantry Division unit. Thank you.

To the widows of Golden Lions, if you would wish to continue to receive *The CUB* after the passing of your husband please let Membership Chair Jacquelyn Coy know. Her contact information is located above, in this box.

CUB Staff occasionally receive **requests to stop the mailing** of their issue of *The CUB*. If you no longer want an issue to be mailed to you, **please contact Jackie Coy, Membership Chair.**

THE LETTER BOX

Sgt. Glover's World War II Letters Home



The Wartime Journey of Sgt. Robert "Bob" Glover U.S. Army, 106th I.D.

Written in his own words to his family from 1944–1946, this collection of hundreds of personal letters are virtually a "daily diary" chronicling one young man's desire to serve his country in Europe while staying connected to his family's daily life back home and, in the process, to imagine and value life's goals.

"I believe anyone who has served in the Armed Forces, at any time, will feel an immediate connection with Bob's writing about his best friends, questioning his future after the service, and his constant longing for home."
Colonel. USAF

"An excellent read ... I feel I am right alongside with him ..."
Storekeeper, U.S. Coast Guard Retired

The Letter Box is now available on Amazon in print and Kindle
<http://www.amazon.com/Mr.-Tom-Caccioppoli-Glover/e/B00SLM1I82/>

For every purchase a donation will be made to a charitable military-related organization!

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Order of the Golden Lion Committee

This award is provided in three classifications depending on the qualifications of the recipient. The most prestigious is “**Commander Class**” issued in gold finish. This award is usually provided to someone who has served the Association faithfully over an extended period of time.

The second is “**Officer Class**” issued in silver finish. This award is usually provided to someone who has served the Association faithfully over an extended period of time.

The third is “**Companion Class**” issued in bronze finish. This award is usually provided to someone who has served the Association faithfully in the capacity of assistance in the operation of the Association.

The specifications for making the award are intended to fit many instances where an individual is deemed worthy. *The award should be determined by the recipient's contributions to the Association.*

The Co-chairs of the Order of the Golden Lion committee will poll the members of the Board of Directors for recommendations for the OGL awards. The President or Co-chairs may select additional members to the committee.

Nominations will be submitted in a format suitable for composing a formal citation to accompany the award of the medal. This must be done in ample time prior to the next Reunion in order for the manufacturer to produce the medal(s) on time.



All citations should be kept confidential between the nominator and the Committee Chairman prior to the actual awarding ceremony.
LEAD TIME — 3 WEEKS, MINIMUM

Send nominations to any of the Co-chairs of the Order of the Golden Lion Committee at:

Carol J. Faulkner
3179 Kestrel Court,
Martinsville, IN 46151
765-342-1872

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rgbg75@att.net

Editor's Note: The criteria used to distinguish between who qualifies for the **Commander Class** vs the **Officer Class** is being discussed by the Board. *The CUB* will publish specifics when more information is available.

Editor's Message . . .



Hello to all our readership. This edition is my first as Editor, and I am excited to begin in that capacity.

I've already heard from several members and non-members who sent in pictures, interesting stories, and requests for information. Please keep them coming. If you have any items you'd like included in future editions, send them to me, Lisa Dunn:

CUBEditor@106thInfDivAssn.org.

Please include "*The CUB*" in the subject line to ensure I see the email. Articles for the next edition of *The CUB* are due to me no later than **May 1, 2020**.

I asked William McWhorter who served as Editor prior to me if he would like to share a Farewell Message with us and he was kind enough to send us the article on the next page. I think you'll enjoy William's article as much as I did. Thank you again William for your many years of service on behalf of *The CUB*!

Just a reminder . . .

If you have pictures, an article, or some other form of information you would like included in a future issue of *The CUB*, the due dates are as follows:

May 1, 2020 — mail date mid-July, 2020 (issue will include reunion paperwork)

October 1, 2020 — mail date November 30, 2020 (to include reunion photos and remembrances)

January 31, 2021 — mail date March 30, 2020 (issue will include reunion paperwork)

Articles and pictures can be mailed or emailed to:

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Make Your Plans NOW!!

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Registration forms and paperwork can be found in the center of this CUB.

Tail End Charlie: “Or How to Say Good-bye”

By William McWhorter, former editor of *The CUB* of the Golden Lion

In the fall of 2018, Susan Weiss and I announced our plans to the Association's board that we planned to retire in late 2019. By the fall of 2019, plans had changed a little, and as arrangements were finalized for Susan Weiss to continue on as the Publisher after my “discharge,” Lisa Dunn was tapped as the new editor of *The CUB*. During this time, I thought, “How will I say Good-bye?” Not just good-bye to Susan — whom I've had the pleasure of working alongside since day one of our assignment to *The CUB* back in 2007 — but how to say good-bye to the entire readership of *The CUB*? Now rest assured, I'm not going anywhere in the sense of not remaining a member of the Association, but my time as editor has come to its end. And it struck me, since Vol. 75, No. 3, was my last issue as editor, my “Tail End Charlie” in a string of 38 issues, I felt the best way I could say good-bye to the readership of *The CUB* was by sharing with you how I came to be the editor of *The CUB*. So, without further ado, here we go.

In the early 2000s, I had grown tired of my career with Enterprise Rent-A-Car in Austin, Texas, but had no desire to explore something different for gainful employment, that is until an old friend of mine told me the story of the “Ghost Division.” My friend Phil, a few years older than I, had served in the U.S. Army during the latter part of the Cold War against the Soviet Union, China, and allies from the Warsaw Pact Alliance. Often Phil would share

stories of his time deployed with the 101st Airborne/Air Assault Division in the Middle East during 1990-1991 as part of the forward elements deployed for Operation Desert Shield, and later during Operation Desert Storm. Learning about his military career, I would often ask him questions about what life was like stationed in Europe, and that's when he told me the story of the “Ghost Division.”

When it came to his time in Europe, Phil shared that he, like so many other servicemen and women during the Cold War, found themselves stationed in Europe at one time during their military career. While in Europe, and away from post while on leave, he would take tours of Germany, neighboring Belgium, and sometimes other nearby European countries. Phil said that during one sightseeing trip, while in Belgium, he remembered coming across monuments to U.S. Army divisions that had served during World War II. These first conversations were just idle chewing the fat, nothing formal like an interview, but when I heard him say “monument,” my mind immediately flashed to the movie *The Big Red One*, and the scene where advancing troops come across battlefield monuments. Some of the enlisted soldiers played by actors that include Mark Hamill (yes, that Hamill, Luke Skywalker himself) stated, and I paraphrase here, “Would you look at that, those rear echelon guys have already put up monuments to our

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dead.” It’s at this point in the movie, that the squad’s battle-hardened and grizzled sergeant — played masterfully by the actor Lee Marvin (a WWII veteran himself) states, “Those aren’t our guys’ names, they’re from the First World War.” To which in response his men say, “But the names are the same.” As the exchange ends, Marvin states prophetically, “They always are.” Once I stopped daydreaming and started listening again to my friend, he said that as he recalled, one of the monuments he saw was to what locals called a “Ghost Division.” A Ghost Division, I said to myself, “What the heck does that mean?” So I asked him to elaborate and Phil said the Belgian people he spoke to [as an aside, I do not recall if he said back then what town he was in] did not know the unit’s name or number, but they held the story of these Americans in noticeable reverence as they shared the story. According to what they told Phil, the “Ghost Division” during World War II fought in Belgium and was made up of American soldiers with very high I.Qs. As the story goes, apparently, the War Department wanted to see what a U.S. infantry division (around 15,000 troopers at full strength during this war) made up of only enlisted men of extraordinary intelligence [see photo] could do against any Axis army unit, but specifically against the Wehrmacht. Second, the “Ghost Division” when it faced off with the Germany army in combat was COMPLETELY destroyed. After hearing this story, as interesting as it was — a tale about a wiped-out U.S. Army division during World War II, memorialized in stone and remembered

in oral tradition by the reverent Belgium people — to a mid-20s William, I did not put much thought into the topic and went about my life.



Figure 1:
Army Specialized Training Program Cartoon¹

By the summer of 2001, I was in the process of leaving my career at Enterprise Rent-A-Car and looking for a new career and I wasn’t sure how this would take place. The September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks occurred shortly thereafter and in my mid-20s, I was all but ready to enlist. A family medical emergency kept me in Texas and out of the U.S. Army, and by 2002, I was enrolled at Texas State University, where I planned to earn a Master’s Degree in History. In graduate school at Texas State you could follow two tracks toward a degree: Public History (i.e., museums, historical markers, oral history, etc.) or Academic History. If you chose the latter, you had to write a thesis. Since the nation was at war, and I had been not only close to enlisting, but also a major history buff going into graduate school, in 2003 I thought I would write my thesis about contemporary military

Editor's Message . . .

history. Initially, I was going to write about the 4th Infantry Division. At the time, the 4th Infantry Division was stationed out of Fort Hood, Texas, but presently deployed to the Middle East. You may recall early during the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq, the 4th Infantry Division was deployed to Turkey and set to invade Iraq southward. For a number of reasons, America's N.A.T.O. ally would not let this happen and the entire division was pulled from the line and transferred southward to Kuwait and began the war from there. When it came to writing a thesis and thinking about sources, with the 4th Infantry Division's headquarters at Fort Hood, this could be a close location for me to find a number of primary documents and other resources to write my thesis, or so I thought. But writing about the 4th Infantry Division was not to be. As I quickly learned in graduate school, historical context comes with time and we were in contemporary events in 2003 and nowhere near placing that invasion into historical context and understanding the division's role in it for me to be able to write a good thesis. So, I started thinking, what could I write about, and the "Ghost Division" came flying back into my mind. I thought to myself, "Where would I start?"

To start writing about the soldiers of the "Ghost Division" and compose a thesis question, I had to first figure out who they were. So, like most people, I went to the Internet to begin my search. There I started plugging in key words, such as "Ghost Division of World War II," "World War II soldiers with above normal intelligence," and

of course, "Division destroyed by the Germans during World War II." As a side note, that third inquiry will send you to many stories about the war on the Eastern Front in the Soviet Union. Slowly but surely the more I researched online, the more I suspected the Ghost Division was the Golden Lion Division, the 106th Infantry Division. From that point forward, I started looking online to find if there was any information published on the division. To my great pleasure there was, and one of the first things I found was John Kline's (423/M) website. To my even greater enjoyment, there was contact information on the website. I was able to communicate with John Kline directly via email and he was very generous in sharing his own information, his war diary, items from past *CUBs* he had worked on, and much more. From this point I was hooked. I was going to write my thesis on the 106th Infantry Division during the Battle of the Bulge. From spring 2003 to my thesis defense in May 2005, I researched, read, wrote; I even ate, slept, and breathed the "Hungry and Sick" Division and the greater context of the European Theater of Operations during World War II.

After graduating from Texas State University in 2005, I made plans to go to my first 106th Infantry Division Association Reunion set in New Orleans, LA. As you may recall the devastating effect of Hurricane Katrina that August destroyed much of the crescent city and the Association moved their reunion to November in Virginia. Unfortunately, the delay kept me from meeting John Kline

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Editor's Message . . .

that year as he was unable to attend, but in attending my first reunion I met and befriended a large number of Golden Lions — names you know such as: John Schaffner, John Gatens, Hugh Colbert, Harold Power, Murray Stein and Alan Jones Jr. (423/1Bn HQ) to name just a few. The veterans did not know me, they were not expecting me, but they were terrific to me. I went around introducing myself, talking about working with John Kline on my thesis research, and even shared a copy of my thesis with those who wanted to take a look. Some autographed it! How cool is that?

In 2006, work kept me from joining the veterans at their reunion in New Jersey, but I planned to see them again and that came in Kansas City, MO, in 2007. I made it to the reunion and it was at the business meeting that the news was shared that John Kline was going to step down and retire after nearly 20 years of serving as the editor of *The CUB*. A search was on for a new editor, and I felt I missed my chance to meet him and thank him in person. But you know how fate works, I was supposed to be at that reunion, not to meet John Kline and see the veterans and their families again that had welcomed me two years earlier in Virginia, but to take over as editor for John Kline. It was at the 2007 reunion, that a group of veterans pulled me to the side and introduced me to Susan Weiss, the daughter of Golden Lion Newton Weiss (423/3Bn HQ), and asked if I would like to work with Susan to take over the editorial and publishing duties from John Kline. I smiled, and said

yes, and the rest is history. Together, Susan and I worked with dozens of Association officers, and even more great folks submitting their articles for the 33 *CUBs* we produced. Along the way we learned the first person, unique stories of our veterans during the war, and the tales of life after the war. We saw how good friends in Belgium, around the U.S., and beyond, cared about the Golden Lion Division. We saw many good friends pass on year after year and reported the sad news to the readership in *The CUB*. We even found ourselves honored at a reunion for our service to the Association on a night that I still remember so clearly. In September 2011, we were surprised by the Association when they gave us the Order of the Golden Lion award, noting at the time that we were the first non-veteran members to serve in the capacities of editor and publisher.

I came to the 106th Infantry Division Association family not as a veteran of the division or a family member of someone who was. I was a graduate student back in 2003 looking for a thesis topic. I found one, but I found more than just information. Often, veterans and associate members told me, told Susan, and told others who passed the message on to us, that our work on *The CUB* was and still is the “glue” that helps keep the Association together. Since 2007, I have worked with outstanding people such as Herb and Mike Sheaner, Randy Wood, Carl Wouters, John Schaffner, Lyle Beeth, Harry Martin, Jackie Coy, and many, many more I’m forgetting to name here

(sorry) to put together issue after issue. TOGETHER, we helped keep the lines of communication open from 2007–2019 for the Association's members.

In November 2019, with Vol. 75, No. 3, I turned my last draft as *The CUB* editor over to Susan, and now here in this issue, put together by my successor, the talented and uber capable Lisa Dunn,

I say good-bye — my way — as the now former editor of *The CUB* of the Golden Lion who can't wait to read the next issues. I'll see you again at a future reunion, but for now, may God Bless Susan Weiss and her family, all the veterans and their family members of the 106th Infantry Division Association, and the good ole U.S.A.

Battlefield Visit – 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge

By Wayne G. Dunn

In mid-December, I had the good fortune of being able to travel to the areas where the 106th Infantry Division fought during World War II. This trip was very special to me as I was able to visit exact locations where my father, Capt. Thomas M. Dunn, had served during the war. He was with the 424th, 3BN, HQ Company.

Carl Wouters and Doug Mitchell, both members of the Belgian chapter of our Association, planned — and executed flawlessly — four days of events. Both are walking encyclopedias when it comes to knowledge and understanding of the events that took place 75 years ago. At each stop, we were treated to detailed explanations concerning the German objectives and the Allied defensive, and later offensive, actions.

Day 1 — Thursday, December 12

After departing Dulles on a direct flight on the 11th, I arrived in Frankfurt shortly after 8 a.m. the next day. I went through the immigration checkpoint,



Snow in the Ardennes.

grabbed my bags and headed to the rental car area to wait for David Smith, who was about 30 minutes behind me, coming in from New Orleans.

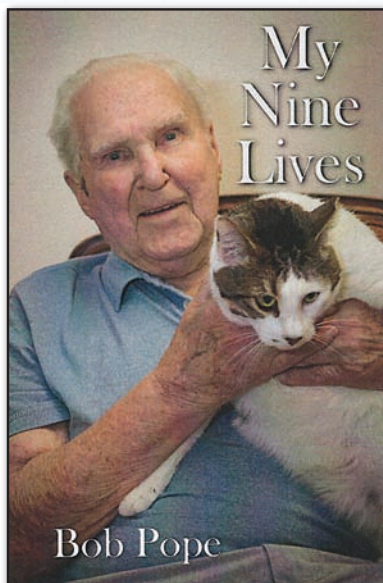
The drive to Saint Vith, which would take about two-and-a-half hours, went from the busy city to wide open and beautiful countryside. David and I checked into the Berliner Hof B&B in Saint Vith, then headed out on foot to investigate our neighborhood, looking for places to eat. We stopped in the Ratskeller for an adult beverage, but they don't serve anything more than just light snacks. David got in touch with the Sheaners (Herb and Mike), who had arrived a day earlier, and we agreed to meet them later for dinner over at their place, the Hotel Steineweiher.

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ANNOUNCING THE PUBLICATION OF

My Nine Lives

BY BOB POPE



Excerpts from *My Nine Lives*:

Early on the morning of December 16th, 1944, just before dawn, German shells began exploding in front of us, behind us, and on our flanks. Later that morning our position was hit hard by German 88s. Our Battery Commander, Captain Luzzi, became our first casualty.

When the order to fall back was received, the fog was so bad that even with our field glasses it was difficult to tell if the shadowy figures we saw were our soldiers retreating or German soldiers advancing. A German ME109 suddenly appeared out of the fog and strafed us. I have no idea how many of our guys were killed or wounded.

The German advance was so swift and met such little resistance due to the lack of fire power and experience that it was already too late. We were bivouacked in a valley on the night of December 18th when word came that we were surrounded. We were told to dispose of all gun firing pins and all vehicle rotors because we were going to surrender.

To obtain your copy of

My Nine Lives

by Bob Pope

send your check for \$11.95
plus \$2 shipping and handling to:

Personal History Press
59 South Great Road
Lincoln, MA 01773

or order online from
[Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)



We headed back to the hotel to unpack and that is when I discovered that I was missing something very important... MY PASSPORT! I went through the room at least three times, checked the car twice but it was lost! Needless to say, this was very unsettling due to the uncertainty of what I would need to do. Thinking I possibly left it at the rental car desk at the Frankfurt airport, I tried to call them but kept getting a fax machine. I called my wife, Lisa, and explained everything to her. She called the same number I was calling with no problem, but it was a central number and not the rental desk. Over the next two days, I spent six hours on the phone with Verizon technical support trying to figure out why I couldn't make the connection, but they were clueless! Friday night around 10 p.m., I called our embassy in Brussels and was pleasantly surprised to be transferred to the duty officer. I was told to show up on Monday morning and it would only take about an hour to get a new passport. Finally, I felt like I had won the lottery and could now enjoy the trip I had been looking forward to for so long!

Day 2 — Friday, December 13

On Friday the 13th, our platoon of 15 hardy souls met at the 106th Memorial in St. Vith. After introductions, an overview of our itinerary for the next four days was provided. We hopped in the cars and eagerly headed out for our first day of the tour.

The first stop was up on the Prümberg at the location of a monument dedicated to the 168th

Engineers. They occupied positions in this area to defend the town of St. Vith.

For our second stop, we drove to Steinebrück where the Our River forms the border between Germany and Belgium. This location, with the bridge over the river, was very meaningful for me as this marked the southernmost positions of the 424th Infantry Regiment — and something my father had talked about often.

Next was a series of stops near Heckhalenfeld, Winterspelt, and Heckhuscheid which were the positions of the 424th Infantry, and the fighting of Dec. 16–17. Heckhalenfeld was the location of the 424th Regimental Headquarters, which is where my father would have been stationed when the battle started. The building they occupied is no longer standing.

Unlike the 422nd and 423rd — which were occupying positions in low-lying areas of the Siegfried line, with poor terrain for tactical purposes — the 424th occupied higher terrain with more open areas for maneuverability. When the battle started, they were told “hold at all costs,” and due to their

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Doug Mitchell and Carl Wouters at monument to 168th Engineers.

better defensive positions, the Germans eventually passed around them, heading west. After several days, they were told “get out the best way you can.” My father said they realized the Germans would probably hold the two primary bridges in their sector over the Our River, so they aimed for a spot midway between the two bridges. Knowing they would have to sneak through enemy lines, they ordered the soldiers to remove the ammunition from their rifles so that someone would not give away their position. They almost made it. When they came to a large field they had to cross, the Germans spotted them about midway across and opened fire. Luckily, since the field sloped downwards in the direction of the river, the Germans could not lower their artillery enough to hit them. Eventually the 424th made it to the river and found a spot that was shallow enough to wade across. Dad mentioned that they had to watch out for large chunks of ice floating down the river.

With our group back on the road, a brief stop was made in Grosslangenfeld, at Doug Mitchell’s house, to pick up some warm refreshments — which later would prove to be perfect for a cold, windy, wet day!

Next stop was near Gröffingen at a monument dedicated to Cpl. Horace “Bud” Thorne, posthumous recipient of Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions against the German

tanks and dug-in infantry at this location.

With temperatures around freezing, a steady rain, and a breeze to make it feel colder, I was moments away from turning into a block of ice when Carl magically pulled out the warm refreshments and some cookies. All was right with the world once again!

As we started driving to the Biermuseum Rodt for lunch, a heavy snow started to fall, making the countryside even more beautiful. Inside the restaurant almost every wall had shelves holding beer bottles from all around the world. I have never before seen such a large collection!

After lunch, we returned to St. Vith to pick up our car before heading towards Manhay for the afternoon. In Manhay there were WWII vehicles and tanks, a reenactor camp, 424th monument, and a museum. Unfortunately for me, at this point I dropped out so I could deal with my missing passport.

Day 3 — Saturday, December 14

Again, we gathered at the 106th Memorial in St. Vith, then headed to Schönberg to get a preview of the new monument, dedicated to all POWs, that would be unveiled at a ceremony on Sunday. We were greeted by Herbert Grommes, Mayor of St. Vith, and two gentlemen from the area that witnessed the fighting in 1944. Herb Sheaner



*106th Memorial in St. Vith.
Site of the Flag of Friendship
ceremony.*

carried on a lengthy conversation with the men using Mayor Grommes as a translator.

From Schönberg it was a short drive to Andler to view where Herb Sheaner was positioned for several days, before eventually being surrounded, and due to lack of food, water and ammunition, forced to surrender. From there we moved to the church in Bleialf where the POWs were held in a courtyard before they were marched off to the train station. Inside the church one can still see bullet holes in several of the pews.

Onward to the Schnee Eifel/Schlausenbach, following some narrow farm roads where a large vehicle could not reach, we came to the area of Herb Sheaner's location on 12/18/1944. Among a mixture of open fields and stands of pine trees, this is where Herb was taken prisoner.

The next stop was along the Siegfried line for David Smith to see the actual bunker where his father, Jack D. Smith, Sr., was located at the start of the battle. David repeated the story that his father had told him about how he sat on the top of the bunker and threw hand grenades. Carl was able to locate the bunker and David was able to climb on the roof! His father, 423/1BN/B, was captured and, as a POW, was sent to Stalag 9A.

Next, we headed to the area of Kehr, Germany, to visit a bunker and "Dragons Teeth" (tank traps) in the Siegfried Line. Doug and Carl provided an excellent explanation of the design of the German fortifications, which were designed for defensive purposes. For



Dragon's Teeth in the Siegfried Line.

the dragon's teeth, a thick concrete base about 50 or 60 feet wide, with three to five rows of "teeth" incorporating steel reinforcement rods, provided the outer defensive line. Then bunkers were built about 200 yards behind the dragon's teeth and spaced close enough together that they could provide overlapping fire with the next bunker.

We enjoyed a light lunch at "Old Smuggler," located in the town of Allmuthen in the Losheim Gap.

Traveling to Lanzerath, there was a short ceremony at a monument dedicated to the actions of the 99th Division, 390 I&R Platoon. Here, a platoon of 18 men, commanded by Lt. Lyle Bouck (book *The Longest Winter*), inflicted severe casualties on German troops. Lieutenant Bouck and three other men received the Distinguished Service Cross.

Our next stop was at the train yards in Gerolstein. This was the POW loading area where Herb Sheaner and many other soldiers of the 106th were crammed into railway cars and shipped east.

Then, just as the sun set, we arrived at the train station (no longer used) in Oberbettingen. This is the location where a POW train, waiting to transport

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Dedication ceremony for new POW monument at Schönberg.

prisoners, was strafed by Allied planes.

Finally, we closed out the day by having a wonderful dinner at Altes Backhaus in Bleialf.

Day 4 — Sunday, December 15

This morning, we made the short drive from St. Vith to Schonberg for the ceremony dedicating the new POW Monument.

After the ceremony, we headed back to St. Vith, to the location of the 106th Division Memorial, to attend the Flag of Friendship ceremony. Several tour buses dropped off their passengers which consisted of about twenty WWII veterans, plus many family and friends. I would estimate the crowd size to be between 800 and 1,000 people.

After the ceremony, all of the veterans and their family members were invited back to City Hall for a reception. Complimentary drinks and hors d'oeuvres were served.

Next, we traveled to Vielsalm for the “Gallery of Giants” ceremony at the Rencheux Bridge monument.



“Gallery of Giants” ceremony at the Rencheux Bridge monument.

The ceremony was sponsored by members of the C47 Club Inc. and its Ardennes Salm River Chapter, with Eddy Lamberty being the master of ceremonies.

As the ceremony was wrapping up, Doug Mitchell and Carl Wouters had a presentation of their own to make. To the surprise of Eddy Lamberty and Claude Orban, each of them was awarded the “Order of the Golden Lion” in recognition of all the hard work they continue to perform on behalf of our Association. Well deserved, gentlemen!

For our final stop for the night we headed to the Auberge du Carrefour, located in Baraque de Fraiture, Vielsalm, for dinner. This location is also known as “Parker’s Crossroads.”

Inside, we were greeted by Bernadette Lejeune, her daughter, Esmeralda, and her granddaughter — the latest of five generations of owners (except the granddaughter, who may be someday). The family ownership dates before the war, and some of our vets, who fought at Parker’s Crossroads, have made



Eddy Lamberty and Claude Orban with their Order of the Golden Lion awards.

lasting friendships with family members that are renewed with each returned trip.

Day 5 — Monday, December 16

This day marked the 75th anniversary of the start of the Battle of the Bulge. Originally, the plans had called for a visit to the Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial, but when Carl Wouters and Doug Mitchell learned the cemetery would be closed that day due to a ceremony that was to be attended by heads of state, they managed to obtain a much-coveted invitation for our entire group!

My ability to attend the ceremony was thrown into chaos due to my losing my passport. Since I had already arranged to travel to the U.S. Embassy in Brussels, I did the math and the timing gave me a couple hours to spare. I arose at 5 a.m. and was out the door by 5:30, heading to Brussels. What was expected to be an hour and 45-minute drive slowly morphed into a two-and-a-half hour drive. The rush-hour traffic in Brussels actually made the traffic in Washington D.C. seem like a picnic! No worries, I thought, because the duty officer had said it would only take about an hour.

Figuring that I needed to allow about two hours and 20 minutes to drive back to the designated shuttle

parking area for the cemetery, I settled in. Watching the clock became torture as it seemed the staff must be severely overworked. Although I only saw four other people the entire time I was there, the process still took almost three hours. In my youth, I may have attempted to shave 20 minutes off of the return trip, but my more experienced self considered all of the things that could go wrong, so I reluctantly resigned myself to the fact I would miss the ceremony.

Now that I had no commitments, I took the opportunity to visit a couple of places that I had wanted to see. My first stop was at the Peace Woods, where trees are planted in honor of the veterans who have returned to visit the bulge area. Specifically, I wanted to find the trees belonging to John Schaffner and John Gatens. While trusting the cell

phone's GPS, I drove about ½ mile down what seemed to be a muddy cow path, but nothing was there. My second attempt was more fruitful, and I found a much better side road that actually had a sign for "Bois de la Paix" ("Wood of Peace"). I found a parking area and made the short walk to the trees, where there was a directory that pointed me to the area to search. Luckily, John Schaffner had previously mentioned that his



Tree for John Schaffner at Peace Woods (top) and Tree for John Gatens (spelled incorrectly) at Peace Woods.

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David Smith at monument for 168th Engineers.

tree was on the outer perimeter, thus saving me a lot of time. After that, I went off to search for the monument dedicated to Lt. Eric Fisher Woods, Jr.

This time my luck was a little better and

I found the monument right where it was supposed to be.

For the other members of the group that went to Luxembourg, I was told they had a wonderful time. Please refer to Carl Wouters' story, starting on page 32, for more details of the events.

Day 6 — Tuesday, December 17

On this day, David Smith was heading to Frankfurt to check into a hotel and then do some sightseeing. His father, Jack D. Smith, Sr., 106th ID, 423/1BN/B, was a POW sent to Stalag 9A, and David arranged for a private tour of the Stalag 9A Museum on Wednesday. My plans were to meet up with a friend of mine named Sten Mann who is from near Eindhoven, Netherlands. We were to visit the Margraten cemetery and then pick some random place to visit.

Since David was catching the train in Aachen, Germany, we were going to park the

car in the garage and then walk over to make sure he caught his train. The garage turned out to be an adventure in itself! After driving down six levels looking for a space, we were getting desperate when we finally found a spot that would've been perfect if I was driving a golf cart. We literally had about four inches between the driver's side and the car next to us. On the other side, we were about four inches from the support pillar. Luckily, the passenger door would just clear the pillar and could be opened, but that required me to pull a Houdini and get out from under the steering wheel, crawl over the console, and out the door. David caught his train with no problems and was off to Frankfurt. Meanwhile, all I had to do was reverse the process and get the car out of the garage. Somehow, I feel like I am missing something... oh, did I mention that I only speak English? Much to my dismay when I pulled up to the exit machine, no matter how hard I searched, I could find no place to insert a credit card or money. Just



Wayne Dunn with Fort Eben-Emael tour guide Jo Fievez.

as I pressed the buzzer for assistance, another car pulled up behind me. Well, it seems all those signs in German were saying something about paying for your ticket before exiting. About the time I was explaining to the attendant over the intercom of my predicament, a wonderful lady was walking in and, **in English**, asked if I needed help. I gave her

a couple euros and my ticket and she went into the office and took care of the matter. Okay, lesson learned!

I caught up with Sten at the Margraten cemetery and we toured the grounds, took pictures, looked at the displays, and read all of the information. The American Battle Monuments Commission sure does an excellent job of keeping these hallowed grounds in pristine condition.

Next, Sten suggested we go to Fort Eben-Emael which is nearby. Thinking we may be able to take a tour, we walked up to the main entrance and spoke with a guard. He said the fort was closed



Monument at Fort Eben-Emael.

because they were giving a private tour to a group of Belgian teenagers which is the equivalent of our ROTC. About then, the tour ended and Sten went over and spoke with the guide. I have no clue as to what was being said as my only option is "Press 1 for English." After Sten told the guide that my father had fought in World War II nearby, the guide, Mr. Jo Fievez gave us our

own private tour of the entire facility.

Our guide did a remarkable job of weaving the story of the purpose, design and building of the fort, together with how the Germans were able to capture it in less than 24 hours. The

Germans, who only lost six men, employed several techniques that had never been used in warfare before. Rather than attacking the fort head on, as had always been the standard procedure, the Germans

used gliders to land 78 soldiers on the top of the fort. The second technique involved the use of the new top-secret "shape charges" to destroy the defensive positions.



Margraten American cemetery.

continues on page 30

Day 7 — Wednesday, December 18

On Wednesday, it was time for me to head back home by using my shiny new passport. When I tried to get out of Germany, the passport lady politely asked, “Can you explain how you got into Germany without a stamp in your passport?” Luckily, she accepted the print out of the email I received from the airline as proof.

Now, arriving at Dulles, what possibly could go wrong? First, I estimate there were 500 people in the queue to go through immigration — and only three agents working! When I finally got to the agent, she looked at my passport, and said, “This looks strange to me. Please walk down this aisle and show this to that person down there at

the end. We need to do some additional investigation.” That agent made me walk down another corridor to see another person who kindly said, “Have a seat, and someone will call you shortly.” Eventually, I did get called, but it was two hours later!

Reflecting back on the entire trip, I had a great time! Our group certainly benefitted from the planning and attention to detail provided by Carl Wouters and Doug Mitchell, and I highly recommend that if you get the chance, go!

Additional pictures can be found on the 106th website at:
106thinfdivassn.org/slides75bulge.html

I WAS A PRISONER

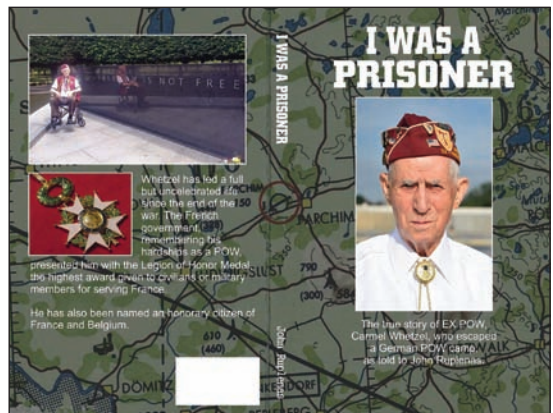
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75th Anniversary WWII Victory in Europe Tour

Friday, May 1 – Saturday, May 9, 2020

**(Optional Normandy Pre-tour,
Tuesday, April 28 – Saturday, May 2)**



The Highlights

Optional NORMANDY Pre-tour

- Visit Normandy American Cemetery, Omaha Beach, Pointe du Hoc, Ste Mère Église, Utah Beach, Bayeux, and the Falaise Gap

75th Anniversary WWII Victory in Europe MAIN TOUR

- In depth visits to the Northern and Southern Bulge battlefields. See Battle of the Bulge historic sites (St. Vith, Bastogne, Malmedy, the Siegfried Line and more)
- Visit Luxembourg's National Museum of Military History in Diekirch
- Visit the Remember Museum in a Belgian farmhouse
- Visit General Patton's grave in Luxembourg American Cemetery (wreath laying)
- Sightseeing, free time and shopping in Paris, Reims, Luxembourg City, Aachen, Cologne and Berlin

The Tour

- Tour Director, Patrick Hinchy, (35 + years' experience guiding Military Tours)

| MAIN TOUR | NORMANDY and MAIN TOUR |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Depart USA to Paris Friday, May 1 | Depart Tuesday, April 28 |
| Return May 9 | Return May 9 |

Tour Price

- \$2,650 per person (\$2,950 if Normandy Pre-Tour is included)
- WWII Veterans: \$2,000. If party of 3 or more, additional discount offered
- No single supplement fee
- Space still available (deadline Mar 23, 2020 - deposit of 50% of tour cost)
- Final payment due by April 3, 2020
- Airfare is not included in the Tour Price

Contact

Doris Davis, 87th IDLA Member, doris@dordavis.com, 650-654-0101 or ww2historytours@gmail.com

A Report of the 75th Anniversary of The Battle of the Bulge

By Carl Wouters, Belgium Liaison

Inauguration of the POW Monument in Schönberg

The planning stage for the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge began in the spring of last year, when local governments and associations formulated their plans for the commemorations of the upcoming anniversary. As this was likely the last major anniversary with a significant participation of WWII veterans, celebrations and remembrances were scheduled in almost every town and village of the Belgian Ardennes, including many of the places where the 106th Infantry Division made history in the winter of 1944-45.

One of the projects that the Bulge Chapter pushed forward was the creation of a monument dedicated to the unacknowledged, unsung heroes of WWII: the prisoners of war. Between 19 and 21 December 1944, almost 7,000 troops of the 106th were forced to surrender in the Belgian village of Schönberg. Caught behind enemy lines and out of food, medical supplies and ammunition, they fought until they had no recourse but to surrender. A long and arduous experience followed in the German POW camps, from which many would not return.

Newly elected mayor of St. Vith, Herbert Grommes — a local from Schönberg — greatly supported the plan, which was also favorably received by the town council and village committee

of Schönberg. A spot was selected in the center of the village, near the location where the strategically important bridge crossed the Our River. A beautiful locally sourced slate stone was selected and donated by construction company Trageco in Waimes, which was installed on November 1, 2019. The panel which was mounted on the stone features a narrative in English and German, with a photographic backdrop showing American prisoners.

The inauguration was set for 15 December, the Sunday closest to the actual start of the battle. Whereas the days prior were dominated by high winds, rain and intermittent melting snow, the weather on the inauguration day proved to be beautiful. Apparently, General Patton's weather prayer is still very effective!

For a celebration of 75 years of peace, it was an important signal to have representatives of both German



German reservists from the Bundeswehr and their Belgian counterparts join the commemorations as friends, 75 years after the end of WWII. The theme of reconciliation was an important cornerstone during the ceremonies at St. Vith and Schönberg. (Photo by David Smith)

and Allied sides present. At the ceremony, Herb Sheaner (422/G) met with Nikolaus Bach, who served with the German Army during the Battle of the Bulge. The German Bundeswehr were invited and sent a detachment of reserve officers and NCOs from Reservistenkameradschaft Vechta to attend the ceremony. In addition to a color guard, the U.S. Army Benelux was represented by garrison commander Colonel Sean H. Kuester and Command Sergeant Major Katrina M. Herzfeld. Additionally, Belgian Army reservists from the Freundenkreis der Reservisten Eupen, Malmedy u. St. Vith and a color guard of the local patriotic associations meant that the military was well represented at the ceremony.

Schönberg locals also showed great interest in the monument and many attended the ceremony, including several elderly people who as young children recalled the fighting that took place in and around the village. Family members of 106th Infantry Division veterans were



Elderly locals from Schönberg gather around Mayor Herbert Grommes and Golden Lion Herb Sheaner after the inauguration of the new POW monument on 15 December 2019. On Herb's left is Nikolaus Bach, a German WWII veteran of the Battle of the Bulge.
(Photo by Carl Wouters)



The 106th group and the new monument in Schönberg, which honors the service and sacrifice of all POWs. The elderly gentlemen on the right are locals from Schönberg who recall the fighting between the 106th Division and 18th Volksgrenadier Division in December 1944. (Photo by Doug Mitchell / Borderlands Tours)

also plentiful, representing almost every unit in the Division and several attached units. A live brass orchestra beautifully performed the U.S. and Belgian national anthems, as well as taps in memory of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

This unique monument now stands as a testimony to the service and sacrifice of all POWs.

The annual Flag of Friendship ceremony in St. Vith

After the Schönberg monument inauguration, we proceeded to the center of St. Vith where a large crowd gathered at the 106th Infantry Division monument near the former division command post. It was amazing to have no less than 23 U.S. WWII veterans present for this event. Many of these men had served with different divisions during the Bulge. USMC Iraq and Afghanistan veteran Andrew Biggio brought a group of 17 WWII veterans and Gary Higgins, President of the

continues on page 34

Battle of the Bulge Organization Inc (BOBA) was present with a group that included seven veterans, among whom was J. David Bailey (422/F).



The Flag of Friendship ceremony at St. Vith this year was attended by 23 U.S. WWII veterans from various divisions, who came to pay tribute to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice during the Battle of the Bulge. Carl and Herb lay flowers for the 106th Infantry Division Association. (Photo by David Smith)

After a solemn remembrance, the Flag of Friendship was presented to mayor Herbert Grommes. Born and raised in Schönberg, he remembered that in his childhood he and his friends found the detritus left by the surrendered units of the 106th. The former battlefield with rusty helmets, broken weapons and abandoned equipment was their playground. A dangerous one at that, as the woods were littered with unexploded ordnance, which claimed lives until many years after the war. As the newly elected mayor of St. Vith, Herbert was one of the driving forces behind the new POW monument and the many commemorative events.

At a reception at the St. Vith city hall he explained to the WWII veterans: “We bow in deep respect in front of you in remembrance for all that you and your fellow countrymen did. You gave us back our freedom, the values of democracy, prosperity as well as noble

values like respect, tolerance, humanity. We can only imagine what would have happened if it had not been for your steadfast commitment, without the intervention of U.S. and allied forces from D-day onwards.” The veterans were then asked to sign the Golden Book of St. Vith, which is the highest civic honor. The last to sign the book were the King and Queen of Belgium.

Remembering at Vielsalm, Manhay and beyond

For many years Belgians Eddy Lamberty and Claude Orban have aided returning WWII veterans and helped perpetuate the history of the units that fought in the Salm River area. Their construction of a monument at Vielsalm, honoring the 106th and other divisions, was one of these valuable initiatives. At their annual Gallery of Giants event in Rencheux (Vielsalm), Eddy and Claude honored Ex-POW Herb Sheaner and a GI of the 82nd Airborne who was missing in action, but certainly did not expect to be honored themselves by the award of the Order of the Golden Lion.

2019 OGL recipient Eddy Monfort had his hands full this year at Manhay, where his association Ardennes



The 106th group gathers around Herb Sheaner (holding a portrait of his 1944 self) on the hill above Schönberg. It was near this location that Herb was captured on 21 December 1944. (Photo by Doug Mitchell/Borderlands Tours)

Remember 44–45 organized an immense gathering of vintage WWII military vehicles and large-scale reenactments. Several functional Sherman tanks and German armored vehicles reconstituted the heavy fighting of December 1944 in the fields at Grandmenil. A visit to the new Manhay History Museum '44 proved a welcome (and warm!) exchange from the blizzard conditions raging outside.

Our Association group did a tour of the 106th Division front lines and retraced the battle all the way to the Gerolstein railhead, where the captured men were placed on boxcars, and the Oberbettingen station, where a train carrying American POWs, was strafed by a friendly fighter plane, resulting in casualties.

On Monday, 16 December, we travelled to the American Military Cemetery and Memorial in Hamm, Luxembourg, where we took part in the official remembrance ceremony. This high-security event was attended by many European royals and heads of state. US dignitaries included Secretary of Defense Mark Esper, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark A. Milley and the Speaker of the U.S.



A group shot at dusk at the abandoned railway station of Oberbettingen, where a train pulling boxcars filled with captured GIs was strafed by an Allied fighter plane on 24 December 1944. (Photo by Doug Mitchell)



David Smith, son of S/Sgt Jack D. Smith (423/B) sees Brandscheid through his father's eyes as he stands at the approximate spot where his dad witnessed the first shots fired in anger on 16 December 1944. The remnants of the bunker David's father was in at that time are located on private property just behind him on the right. We were able to access the site and talk to its current owner, who by some strange coincidence happened to be a US expat. (Photo by Carl Wouters)

House of Representatives. After the conclusion of the ceremony, which included a fly over in 'missing man' formation by the U.S. Air Force and a 21-gun salute by a Luxembourg Army field artillery battery, the WWII veterans were invited to a private reception at the Grand Ducal Palace.

Other events where the Bulge Chapter represented the Association were ceremonies at Baraque de Fraiture on 22 December 2019, a ceremony and exposition at Spineux on 12 January 2020 and finally the closing event in St. Vith on 21 January 2020, which remembered the second liberation of the town in 1945. Looking back, the 75th anniversary was a great success and showed an

increased public interest in the history of the 106th Infantry Division. The spirit of remembrance is well alive.

Paying Honor on a Trip to Stalag IVB

By Ron and Sue Nelson

Susan's father was James W. Smith, a member of the 106th. Jim passed away in 1996 and, as so many WWII veterans, shared very little of his experiences in the war. We only know that he was at Stalag IVB when we found his camp tag after he passed



Susan Nelson at the entrance at the monument.

away in 1997. This led our family to begin research on the 106th and the Battle of the Bulge. This is how we came across *The CUB* and the 106th Association. Your publication has been most helpful in finding books and research material.

Last November 2019, Susan and I traveled to Dresden on a river cruise where we engaged a local guide to take

us to Muhlberg and the site of Stalag IVB. We realized that there are no structures at the camp, but we felt it was important for us to honor Jim's memory and all of the sacrifices made by the 106th by going there — especially since we were within 40 miles of the site. Our guide did a good bit of research with a local historian in Muhlberg that we came to find out had helped other family



Remaining sections of the original foundation.

Front & Center . . .

members of the 106th in the past. We took some photos at the camp site we wanted to share.

The very ironic fact of our trip to Stalag IVB is that it was a beautiful fall day with the colors of the trees changing... very sobering to see such a well-maintained campsite with the knowledge that so many of our heroes spent the worst time of their lives there. We honored all of these heroes by returning with one of their daughters to show that their sacrifices were not in vain.



Remaining structure of the slaughterhouse in Dresden.

Make Your Plans NOW!!

for the 106th Infantry Division Association's 74th Annual Reunion at the

Hilton Airport Hotel in Kansas City, MO

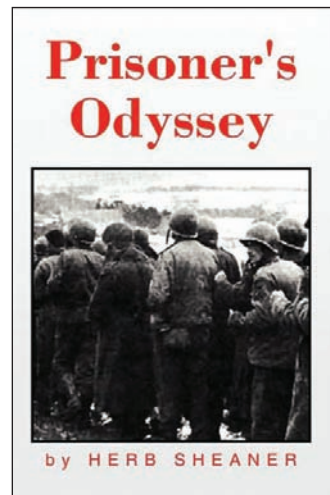
September 9–13, 2020

Registration forms and paperwork can be found in the center of this CUB.

Prisoner's Odyssey

by Herb Sheaner (422/G)

Prisoner's Odyssey is a story of survival, hunger and reflection from a teenaged prisoner of war inside Germany near the end of WWII. From capture at the Battle of The Bulge to the final escape from his German guards, Herb Sheaner allows us a glimpse into the despair and agony of being a prisoner in a foreign land. During World War II, Herb Sheaner served as a private first class in Company G, 422nd Regiment of the 106th Infantry Division. After receiving ASTP training at University of Alabama, he joined the 106th at Camp Atterbury in Indiana where he earned Expert Rifleman honors and was designated Co. G Sniper and Regimental Scout. Fifty years later he recalls his experiences.



Available through Barnes & Noble, Amazon.com and Xlibris online.

“VETERANS’ VOICES”

This is a recurring article for The CUB initiated at the 73rd Annual Reunion. Veterans are asked to submit their brief personal stories for inclusion in future issues of The CUB. Whenever possible, please submit your story attached to an email so it can easily be transferred to The CUB.

Roy Burmeister and Paul Louis Young

My uncle, Roy Burmeister, was a forward artillery observer with the 106th and was captured early in the Battle of the Bulge. He survived and was liberated very late in the war. He did not tell me much about his experiences until very late in his life, but his quiet dignity and understated description of his ordeal will stay with me forever. On a recent business trip, I realized I would be within a few miles of the Parker’s Crossroads memorial at Baraque de Fraiture, Belgium, and was able to make a side trip to the site. I thought others



Paul at Parker's Crossroads on Jan. 9, 2020.



in your group might be interested in this photo of flowers that had been placed on the ground in front of one of the memorial plaques.

An interesting coincidence when the 106th was

reconstituted in early 1945, one of its new members was Paul Louis Young of Newton, MA. Paul survived the

war as well, and became the father of Gail Young, who has been my wife for the past 44 years. Unfortunately, Paul passed away when my wife was a teenager, so I never had the opportunity to meet him.

Submitted by Paul Burmeister (nephew)

Henry I. Vaden



My dad, Henry I. Vaden, served with the 106th Infantry, 424th service company. He drove a half-ton truck under heavy fire, filled with ammunition to the front lines during

the Battle of the Bulge. He returned to base with the bodies of his dead fellow soldiers. Thankfully, he was never injured or captured.

He earned a Bronze Star during the Battle, and I have always been so proud of his service to us. 1922–2015



Submitted by Angela Vaden McDowell (daughter)



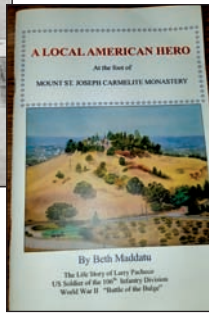
Lawrence Robert Pacheco

Larry Pacheco was a Sergeant in the 106th Infantry Division. I was asked by a friend to try to find out how many of Larry's fellow soldiers from the 106th are still alive. Larry just celebrated his 97th birthday, and says that he was in "cannon company," and had 105 mm howitzers. He was also a POW.

You can read his story in the book called "A Local American Hero," by Beth Maddatu, which chronicles his life from the hills of Clayton Road, San Jose

to the hills of Ardennes Forest in Germany.

*Submitted by
Dave Bower,
friend*



Editor's note:

Looking for information about men with whom you served? Jim West's website roster may be of help and visiting the several websites mentioned on pages 6 and 9 of this edition of *The CUB*. Or if you served with Larry, send me an email for the TATTOO section of *The CUB*.

The Importance of a Mini Reunion

Our veterans will always remember December 16, 1944, when they were thrust into the chaos of war. The years may have thinned the ranks, but those who remain still have the pride of knowing they played an instrumental part in slowing — and ultimately defeating — the German war machine.

As it becomes more difficult to travel, it is of critical importance that mini-reunions be held wherever our vets can join in. Any city, town — or even in someone's home — would be a fine place to gather to honor, cherish and remember all of our veterans. ***Plan one in your area today!***

Contact Mini-Reunion Chair Wayne Dunn at host106th@106thInfDivAssn.org and he can assist you with members in your area.

Veterans and Family of the 106th Infantry Division TATTOO* Requests

The original meaning of military tattoo was a military drum performance, but subsequently it came to mean army displays, or a form of gathering more generally. For our Association, letting members know that someone would like to speak with them is why we do this!

The following are requests for information. Feel free to contact the person listed if you believe you can be of assistance. *The CUB* staff has received permission to print the inquiries and the contact information listed herein.

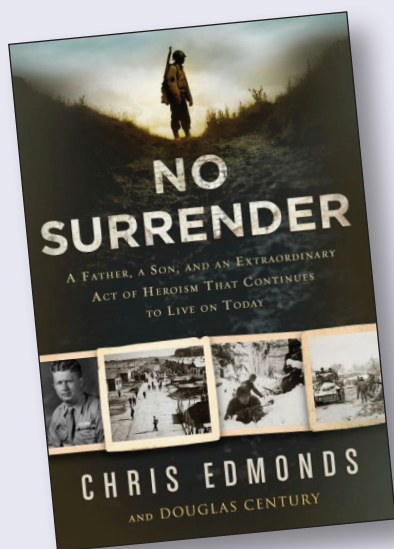
In search of information on George Reed Silcott: My name is Noah Danals and I've been digging into my family history, looking for information about my great-uncle, George Reed Silcott, who served with the 1st BN 424th IN 106th Infantry Division. I have scoured old newspapers from Worthington, OH, which led me to Jim West's website and subsequently to *The CUB*. Our family doesn't know much about my great-uncle's military service except that he was in the Battle of the Bulge and he was awarded a Purple Heart, a Bronze Star, and a CIB. I have done the research as to where the 1-424 was during the battle but if I could keep digging to find out what company he was in, it would help me paint a better picture of where he was. I am currently a Platoon Leader with the 2-107 CAV and I frequent Camp Atterbury. I would like to piece together my family history. If anyone can provide any information about my great-uncle, George Reed Silcott, feel free to email me at noahdanals10@gmail.com or call me at 740-971-3359.

Note: Association member Connie Pratt Baseman, daughter of Lt. Gerald Pratt (Field Artillery) has been one of three people helping to manage the 106th's online "message board" (set up by Jim West) for people to write an inquiry looking for comrades or for people who might have known a relative who is now gone. Sadly, some inquiries sit unanswered when the answers may be out there with a reader of *The CUB* who doesn't use a computer. The list has gotten quite long and she has asked that whenever there is room in *The CUB* that we add a few of the requests. You can find messages like these in this section, along with other searches on the 106th Message Board at the following web address: 106thdivision.proboards.com/index.cgi

**All are welcome to attend the
39th Annual Reunion of the Battle of the Bulge Association
Oct. 15-19, 2020 at the Embassy Suites, Charleston Convention Center,
in lovely Charleston, South Carolina!**

Visit: battleofthebulge.org Click: "Attend Reunion" for registration details.

Now Available!



**From Chris Edmonds, Chaplain,
106th Infantry Division Association**

Spanning seven decades and linking a sprawling cast of unknown heroes from every corner of the country, *NO SURRENDER* is an unforgettable story of a father's extraordinary acts of valor that saved thousands of American soldiers in the treacherous final days of World War II and a son's journey to discover them.

Roddie Edmonds, a humble soldier from East Tennessee, rarely spoke about his experiences with the 106th Infantry during World War II. Not even his son Chris knew the full details of Roddie's capture at the Battle of the Bulge or his captivity in two Nazi POW camps.

Sparked by his daughter's family history project, Chris embarked on a years-long journey in a race against time to interview surviving POWs under Roddie's command and retracing his father's footsteps, from Fort Jackson, South Carolina, where a boyish Roddie transformed into a seasoned leader of men, to the patch of grass near Ziegenhain, Germany, where he looked evil in the eye and dared a Nazi to shoot.

A quintessential American story of bravery, compassion, and righteousness, *NO SURRENDER* is a shining example of the redemptive power of moral courage in a celebration of faith, family and selfless service.

**Order from your favorite bookseller or visit
nosurrenderbook.com**

"Roddie Edmonds is a hero for our age — or any age. In *No Surrender*, Chris Edmonds and Douglas Century have given us the one righteous man whose goodness spares us all."

— Mitchell Zuckoff, New York Times
bestselling author of
Fall and Rise: The Story of 9/11

***NO SURRENDER*: A Father, a Son, and an Extraordinary Act of Heroism
that continues to live on today.**

Read Any Good Books Lately?

As you may have noticed, there are a lot less advertisements for books in this edition of *The CUB*. Moving forward, we will only be including paid advertisements to help defray the cost of printing and mailing the magazine. But, all of the advertisements from veterans whose books were advertised in previous *CUBs* can be viewed on the association website at: [**106thinfdivassn.org/books/**](http://106thinfdivassn.org/books/)

The books by and about the 106th Division association members advertised on our website are:

- *Captured at the Battle of the Bulge* by Russ Lang
- *Captured, Frozen, Starved — and Lucky: How One Jewish American GI Survived a Nazi Stalag* by Milton Feldman
- *Forced March* by John H. Mohn
- *From Brooklyn to the Battle of the Bulge and on to Building an International Business — The Incredible Story of Bernard (Barney) Mayrsohn* by Seth H. Bramson
- *I Was a Prisoner* by Carmel Whetzel
- *I Was No Hero in the Battle of the Bulge* by Harry F. Martin, Jr.
- *My Grandfather's War* by Jesse Cozean
- *My Nine Lives* by Bob Pope
- *My War* by Fredrick Smallwood
- *No Surrender* by Chris Edmonds
- *Once Upon a Time in War* by Robert E. Humphrey
- *Prisoner's Odyssey* by Herb Sheaner
- *Shadows of Slaughterhouse Five* by Ervin Szpek Jr.
- *The Sitting Duck Division: Attack from the Rear* by John W. Morse, 422/C
- *The Letter Box* by Robert "Bob" Glover
- *Warm Memories of Cold Spring* by Beatrice Keeber
- *Warriors of the 106th — The Last Infantry Division* by Ken Johnson, Martin King, & Michael Collins

If you are interested in advertising in printed versions of future *CUBs*, please contact Susan Weiss at [**CUBPublisher@106thInfDivAssn.org**](mailto:CUBPublisher@106thInfDivAssn.org) or treasurer Mike Sheaner at [**sheaner1@airmail.net**](mailto:sheaner1@airmail.net) for more information.

**PLEASE REPORT ALL CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND DEATHS TO:
ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:**

Jacquelyn Coy

121 McGregor Ave., Mt. Arlington, NJ 07856

Phone: 973-663-2410

Email: *JSC164@aol.com*

BOCCHINO, DOMINIC T. 422/K

Date of death: December 2, 2019

Reported by his wife, Clara

CHERMAK, FRED F., SR.

423/H & 424/D

Date of death: 2014

Reported by his daughter

BREITE, VICTOR W. 422/I

Date of death: November 4, 2019

Victor Breite 96, of St. Louis, MO, died on November 4, 2019. He was the husband of the late Avis Breite for 66 years, father of Dennis, Vicki and the Rev. Douglas Breite, grandfather of seven and great-grandfather of five. Victor was a proud World War II Army veteran, serving in the 422nd Regiment of the Golden Lions 106th Infantry Division. Germany issued a bulletin in December, 1944, stating that the 106th Division had been annihilated. Victor was a prisoner of war, captured in the Battle of the Bulge, then transported via train to Stalag IX B in Bad Orb, Germany. After the war, he retired from Mallinckrodt, Inc., where he had worked 42 years as a laboratory technologist. Victor volunteered for 15 years at the Jefferson Barracks Medical Center. He was also a member of the American Legion Post 283 and the St. Louis Past Commanders Club of the American Legion.

Reported by his son Dennis, and his wife Joan

CHIRUMBOLE, FRANK W. 423/D

Date of death: April 17, 2019



Frank W.

Chirumbole, 95, of Orrville, Ohio passed away peacefully surrounded by family at Medina Hospital

on April 17, 2019. Born in 1923 in the front bedroom of the family home in Carnegie, PA, Frank was the sixth of eight children. Frank grew up playing in the neighborhood and schoolyard and walking everywhere. His eldest sister died when he was 6. Frank graduated from Carnegie High School in 1941. Miss Fry said he was the best Latin student she had ever had. After graduation, he worked at a gas station and at Sears, then later at Superior Steel, where he performed laboratory testing. He was drafted and entered the Army in 1943. While waiting to go overseas, he participated in the Army Specialized Training Program at Alabama Polytechnic. In 1944, his unit, the 106th division, traveled to Belgium

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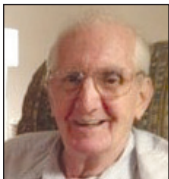
In Memoriam . . .

where they took up their position in the Ardennes forest. His regiment was overrun and surrounded during the Battle of the Bulge. Frank was a POW in Germany from Dec. 1944 until April 1945 at Stalag IV B. After the war, Frank attended Carnegie Tech, now Carnegie Mellon, on the GI bill and received a B.S. in Chemical Engineering in 1950. After graduation, Frank worked for Goodyear in Akron and West Virginia, then returned to Pittsburgh and worked for Hagan Controls, which later became part of Westinghouse. He met Helen Kelly at Conneaut, Ohio, and they were married in Pittsburgh in 1956. Helen and Frank had six children including triplets. Westinghouse transferred Frank to Orrville, Ohio in 1970, where he worked until he retired in 1986. He was a member of Orrville city council for four years. A dependable father and husband, Frank had a smile and a wave for everyone. He had a “c’est la vie” attitude and never worried. Frank enjoyed fishing in his younger years. Later, he liked watching westerns and football on TV, and, of course, family gatherings. Frank was predeceased by his beloved wife, Helen, and is survived by his six children, 12 grandchildren and a sister.

Reported by his son, Dan

EDWARDS, JAMES LEFEVRE **423 INF/3 BN/K**

Date of death: October 30, 2016



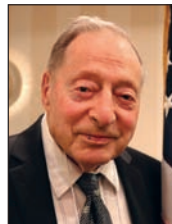
Jim joined the Army on October 14, 1943 in New Cumberland, Pennsylvania at the age of 18. Corporal

Edwards saw combat during the Battle of the Bulge in Rhineland, and Central Europe with the Golden Lions of the 106th Infantry Regiment K Company. During WWII he was an automatic rifleman expert with the M1 carbine. He received the Purple Heart and Bronze Star, and was a prisoner of war. His unique WWII experience was published in *The CUB* of the Golden Lion. Upon returning from war he graduated from Wharton School of Business PA but his inventive spirit drew him from the corporate world to become a small business owner. He moved his family to Florida in 1964 where he owned and operated Bay Office Supply, The Consignment Center, and American Mold and Pattern. He is survived by his children Lisa K. Kowenski (Jack), Cynthia A. Swain (Norm), Tiffany A. Edwards, George M. Edwards (Stephanie), grandchildren Alexa, Ashley, Carla, Jordan, Joshua, Marlin, Matthew, and one great-grandson.

Reported by Jim West

GOLDBERG, LEON **422/D**

Date of death: December 13, 2019



Leon Goldberg, of Philadelphia, PA, died of pancreatic cancer at home under Hospice care after a brief illness. He left his daughters, Diane

and Shelley, and his more recently acquired daughters, Deborah and Dina, as well as his ever-adoring wife Elaine when he passed away at age 97. He left wonderful memories for us all.

Leon began his active military service as part of the 106th Infantry Division on December 16th, 1944, on the front lines of the Battle of the Bulge; he was buried on December 16, 2019, 75 years later.

After three successful days of battle across a narrow dip in the woods, Leon's unit found itself out of food, water, and ammunition, and with no back-up artillery. On that next day, a German officer came across the hill that faced the American unit, bearing a white flag, and soon escorted the American leader, Major William Moon, back behind the German lines. He convinced Moon that the Germans had surrounded the American unit and were well prepared to blow it to smithereens in 15 minutes if they attacked. They preferred, however, to take them prisoners because they were in a hurry to keep moving. Moon surrendered Leon's troops and they joined a 13-day-long march and train ride to the German prisoner-of-war camps. Luckily, Leon was dropped off at Stalag IV-B, where the Germans in charge were regular army, not SS troops, who did not single Leon out as a Jew for special punishment.

By the time the war ended, and Leon came back to the States, he had lost 35 pounds and contracted hepatitis, but he made it. He returned to Philadelphia, married his high school sweetheart Esther and became a CPA and a partner in Stein, Goldberg and Co. In his eighties, Leon left his firm (then Goldberg, Boyle and Brogan), taking 95 clients with him because they wanted him to continue to do their personal work from home. It was at about that

time that he discovered the 106th Infantry Division Association and we began attending its reunions.

Leon was always very active in organizations that provided comradery and help to people who needed it but his last decade or so was focused primarily on conveying the message that war was terrible and should be avoided, if at all possible. He wore his "Battle of the Bulge Survivor, POW MIA" cap or his 106th Infantry Division cap whenever reasonable and was very pleased to talk to people who stopped to share their family stories or questions or thanks for his service. (One of his President's messages in The Cub developed this theme.) His gentle sense of humor was well known and almost always appreciated.

I'd like to end by sharing with you one of his last messages to many of his close friends and family members:

A Message from Leon

"As you may or may not know, I was recently diagnosed with terminal cancer. For that reason I want to invite you to join me at a gathering where we can meet again while I am still able and we can say goodbye.

Sunday, November 3, 2019 from 2–5 p.m., The Green Hill Condominium, Lobby, Wynnewood PA 19096

Many of you will not be able to come and that's okay. You have all enriched my life in one way or another and I thank you."

He would have been pleased to have you all there.

Reported by his wife Elaine Goldberg

KOEHLER, FRANKLIN R. 424/D

Date of death: December 1, 2019



Franklin Koehler passed away in Randolph, NJ on December 1, 2019 at 99 years of age. He is mourned by his family and friends.

Frank was predeceased by his first wife, Madeline, his second wife, Maefred, his granddaughter, stepson and his brother. He was a 37-year resident of Maywood and he retired to Holiday City in Toms River in 1986. In retirement, Frank was active in the VFW Silver-Holiday Post 10185 and the American Ex-Prisoners of War. Frank was born in Brooklyn, NY on July 19, 1920 and attended Bushwick High School. He began his lifelong employment with the Otto Gerdau Company, an import-export firm, in 1939. In 1942, he married Madeline Huggard and in 1943 he joined the Army, serving overseas in the 106th Division, The Golden Lions. During his military service, Frank was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and spent several months as a prisoner of war. After the war, Frank continued at the Otto Gerdau Company. Frank and Madeline moved their family to Maywood in 1949, where he participated in the Parkway Players, was appointed to the Maywood Recreation and was active in the Maywood Athletic Club. In 1981, Frank was honored by the Maywood Athletic Club as Man of the Year. Retiring to Holiday City in 1986, Frank enjoyed bowling and was an avid golfer. He was Senior Vice-Commander and

Commander of the VFW Silver-Holiday, and was honored as an All-State Post Commander. Madeline Passed away in 1993 and Frank married Maefred in 2001. Frank joined the Ocean County Chapter of the American Ex-Prisoners of War in 2000 and he was Chapter Commander for several years. He was also elected National Director for the North East Region and served in that post for several years.

Frank is survived by his children, Kathleen, Jinny, Larainne and Kenneth, three grandchildren and one great-grandson, two stepdaughters, six step-grandchildren and several step-great-great grandchildren.

Reported by his daughter, Larainne

LOCKHART, RICHARD T. "DICK" 423/AT

Date of death November 23, 2019



Dick Lockhart grew up in Ft. Wayne, IN and graduated from South Side High School. After one year at Purdue University, he

enlisted in the Army in 1943. He fought with the Anti-Tank Company 423rd Infantry within the 106th Division and was captured in the Battle of the Bulge. Along with other captured soldiers, Dick was sent to Stalag 9B in Bad Orb, Germany, where he spent four-and-a-half months as a prisoner of war. Upon his release, he was awarded the Bronze Star. After returning to the States, he moved to Chicago and finished his degree at

In Memoriam . . .

Northwestern University. Dick was active in community affairs and began lobbying in the state capitol for various non-profit organizations, eventually opening his own lobbying firm. Dick's lobbying career spanned nearly 60 years and he was well respected for his ethical dedication. Some of his service memorabilia was displayed in a documentary by Tracie Hunter called "Beyond the Call" where he related his wartime experiences. He was known for his great sense of humor, an incredible work ethic, a positive outlook on life, and for being an avid reader and traveler. Dick will be missed by many people. He is survived by a daughter and son.

Reported by Jim West

LOWENBERG, HOWARD 4223/E

Date of death April 27, 2019



Howard Lowenberg of Penn Hills, PA, passed away on Saturday, April 27, 2019. Beloved husband of 68 years of the late Dorothy Lowenberg; loving father of Carol (the late Joseph) Broskey and Sharon (Jack) Austin; loving grandfather of Eric (Dana) Wood, Patty (Dean Mroz) Broskey, Matthew Austin, and the late Joe Broskey; great-grandfather of Joshua, Bennett, and Bodie; brother of the late Walter (late Ellen) Lowenberg; uncle of Dave (Janice), Walter (Ed), Ricky and the late Steve Lowenberg and Jay (Marilyn Haft) Adlersberg and Lynn (John) Colby. Howard was the Past Commander of the Pittsburgh POWs. Services were held at Ralph Schugar

Chapel, Inc., 5509 Centre Avenue, Shadyside. Interment in the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies.

Reported by his daughter, Carol

RUSSELL, JIMMIE G.

Date of death June 29, 2019

Jimmie G. Russell (97) of Weir, Kansas passed away on Saturday, June 29, 2019 at his home. He was interned at the Hosey Hill Cemetery at Weir, Kansas. He served with the 106th Infantry Division 422 from March 1943 to April 1946 in the European Theater of Operations. He was a proud member of the American Legion Post 272 of Weir, where he performed military rites and Memorial Day services for many years. He was retired in 1984 after 35 years of service with Gulf/Chevron (Spencer Chemical Company). He was a cancer survivor of 38 years. Up until the year before he died, he read The CUB regularly. He is survived by two daughters, four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Reported by his daughters, Peggy Hinde and Janet Miller

SCHAFFNER, JOHN R. 589/A

Date of Death: March 3, 2020



John R. Schaffner, 95, passed away on March 3, 2020. Beloved husband of the late Lillian Schaffner (nee Schlutz) for 71 years; devoted father of Robert Schaffner and his wife Barbara, Jeanne Buchanan and

continues on page 48

her husband Richard, Paul Schaffner and his wife Carol; also survived by seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

(Editor's Note: Please see the next edition of *The CUB* for more about John Schaffner's life and contributions.)

Reported by Wayne Dunn

WILLIAMS, JACK P. 424/B

Date of death October 8, 2019

Veteran Jack P. Williams, age 93, passed away on Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at this home in Eagleville, TN. He served proudly in the 106th Infantry Division of the United States Army during WWII. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge where he was frozen from the waist down and spent eight months in the hospital. He is survived by his wife, Shirley, of 59 years, six children, 13 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and 10 great-great grandchildren.

Reported by his, wife, Shirley

YOUNG, DONALD JORDEN 422/I

Died October 22, 2017

A private committal with military



honors was held for Donald Young, who passed away peacefully at his home in Aptos, CA, with his loving family at his bedside. He was 94 years old. Mr. Young was born in

Pittsburgh, PA and served his country in WWII in the European theater. He was taken prisoner at the Battle of the Bulge, surviving a serious shrapnel wound, the loss of a lung and frostbite. The recipient of the Purple Heart Award, he returned home to begin a career as an English professor which spanned over 35 years.

Mr. Young attended Princeton University for his undergraduate studies and earned his Master's Degree from Harvard. He taught English at Williams College and at The Webb School in Claremont, California, before moving to Aptos in 1964. He was a familiar figure at Cabrillo College for 26 years, where he taught English and produced many theatrical events and performances. He was an accomplished poet and enjoyed writing fiction. Many fond memories will be cherished of his participation in the Aptos 4th of July parade. He and his loving wife of 60 years, Viviane, also led the parade on one occasion. He was a proud member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10110.

Mr. Young is survived by his wife, Viviane Young; his daughter and two sons: Mamiche, Jeffrey and Michael; his beloved grandchildren: Patricia and Silvia Romero and Paul Young; and his two brothers: Robert Young Jr. and Peter Young.

He is laid to rest at California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery at Fort Ord.

Reported by Susan Weiss

PLEASE NOTE:

To the widows of Golden Lions, if you would wish to continue to receive *The CUB* after the passing of your husband, please let Membership Chair Jacquelyn Coy know. Her contact information is located on the inside cover of this *CUB*.

We are all feeling the effects of the current financial upheaval, including the 106th I.D. Association. The *Annual Dues* of \$10 are no longer billed or collected. We are now accepting only donations for membership, memorials and LIFE PLUS. The previously-allowed payment of \$75 for Life Membership creates a financial shortfall, as our expenses exceed our income.

Our solution?

We are asking you to join the
LIFE PLUS+ Club

Those Members who contribute to the **LIFE PLUS+ Club** will have their names (*only, no amounts will be shown*) published in the next *CUB*.

Donate as much or as little as you can and as often as you like. By donating, you are helping perpetuate the 106th Infantry Division Association.

To those Members who we haven't heard from for a long time — please take the time to join this exclusive club. *Thank you!*

Send your contribution, check made payable to *106th Infantry Div. Association*, to:

Mike Sheaner

Treasurer, 106th Infantry Division
PO Box 140535, Dallas TX 75214

Make Your Plans NOW!!

for the 106th Infantry Division Association's 74th Annual Reunion at the

Hilton Airport Hotel in Kansas City, MO

September 9–13, 2020

for more information, visit

afr-reg.com/106inf2020

Registration forms and paperwork can be found in the center of this *CUB*.

To see a *full-color* version of this issue of *The CUB*, please visit our website at:

106thInfDivAssn.org

Pass It On

Perpetuate the legacy of the 106th Infantry Division by giving every family member of all generations access to the rich history, news and stories of veterans found in each issue of *The CUB*. You can now “*pass it on*” to as many friends, heirs and family members as you wish at **no cost!**

Those you designate will be recognized as members of the association on the “**CUB Level**” with the following benefits:

1. Receive an electronic copy of *The CUB* delivered by email complete with color photos and graphics
2. Access to the association website and Facebook pages
3. Receive timely notices and information regarding reunions and special announcements

Enroll all family members — sons, daughters, sisters, brothers, grandchildren and others — by submitting their **Name, Email, Address and relationship to a 106th veteran** to **sheaner1@airmail.net**

106th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION



* THE ARDENNES

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* THE RHINELAND

GOLDEN LIONS

Jacquelyn Coy — Membership Chair

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